

REMARKS

Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested. Claim 11 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 1-11 are pending in the application.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

This amendment adds, changes and/or deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

1. Objection to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) and 37 CFR 1.84(o) because they fail to show labels of the parts or features as described in the specification. Figures 1, 5 and 9 have been amended to include the appropriate labels as described above in the section Amendments to the Drawings.

Figure 4 was objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference characters “410” and “510” have been both used to designate Audio Video Unit (AVU) and reference characters “420” and “520” have both been used to designate a Display. As discussed above in the section Amendments to the Drawings, Figure 4 has been amended to include an additional box labeled AUDIO VIDEO UNIT (AVU) having a reference number 510 and the reference number 510 has been deleted from box 410. In addition, in Figure 4, reference number 520 has been removed from box 420 and the reference character 520 has been added to the new boxes labeled DISPLAY coupled to the box 510.

Appended to this amendment are replacement sheets of the drawings (Figures 1, 4, 5 and 9). Withdrawal of the objections under 37 CFR 1.83 (a), 37 CFR 1.84(o) and 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) is respectfully requested.

2. Objection to the Specification

The disclosure was objected to because of the following informalities: on page 6, line 4, "digital media storage unit 230" should be "130" and on page 7, line 21, "ADB. .211" should be "220." The paragraph starting on page 6, line 1 has been amended to change the reference number "230" to reference number "130" at line 4. The paragraph starting at page 7, line 14 has been amended to change the reference number "211" to reference number "220" at line 21. The paragraph starting at page 10, line 17 has been amended to correspond to Figure 6 and to change "feature film #15" to "feature film #22" and to change "feature film #16" to "feature film #23."

Withdrawal of the objections to the specification is respectfully requested.

3. Claim Objections

Claim 11 was objected to because of the following informalities: on line 2 of the claim, the word "one" in "video-one-demand" should be "on." Claim 11 has been amended to correct the informality. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 11 is respectfully requested.

4. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-7 and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Weinberger ("Weinberger," US 6,499,027). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of indicating program selections and requires, among other limitations, allocating one of the RF channels to carry programming signals corresponding to more than one program channel, displaying the program channel corresponding to a program selection carried on the allocated one of the RF channels and displaying the program channel corresponding to another program selection carried on the allocated one of the RF channels in response to a change in the program selection using the passenger control unit.

As discussed in the specification, a cabin file server (CFS) 110 assigns program channels (i.e., PCU channels (e.g., 01-28) used to select a program selection) to each media

file stored in a media file server (MFS) 130 and then assigns the program channels to the RF channels (i.e., channels to which the seat controller card (SCC) 515 will tune to receive the programming signals) included in a RF output signal generated by a video modulator 140. See Figures 3, 4, 6 and 7, page 7, lines 14-17, page 8, lines 22-23 and 27-29, page 9, lines 17-18 and page 10, lines 14-16. In an exemplary embodiment, a single RF channel of the RF output signal may carry multiple video streams, each associated with a corresponding media file that has been assigned a program channel. See, Figure 6, page 8, lines 11-13 and 15-17 and page 9, lines 1-9. In the exemplary embodiment shown in Figure 6, program channels 10-24 which are to carry feature films #7-21, respectively, are assigned to RF channel 11 and its 15 streams. See, Figure 6, page 10, lines 19-22. Accordingly, there is not a one-to-one correspondence between the program channels and the RF channels. See, Figure 6, page 8, lines 13-17. When a passenger uses a passenger control unit (PCU) 540 to select content, e.g., feature film #7, the SCC 515 will tune to RF channel 11, display feature film #7 on seat display unit (SDU) 520 and display the program channel 10 on PCU 540 and/or SDU 520. See Figure 6, page 11, line 22 to page 12, line 9. If the current program channel indication is 10 and the passenger operates a channel increase button on the PCU 540, the channel indication will change to program channel 11 and feature film #8 is displayed on SDU 520 and program channel 11 is displayed on SDU 520 and/or PCU 540. See, page 12, line 26 to page 13, line 2. The SCC 515, however, remains tuned to RF channel 11, and demodulates the stream carried on RF channel 11 corresponding to feature film #8. See, Figures 3, 5 and 6, page 13, lines 2-5. Accordingly, program channels may be identified and displayed in a passenger entertainment system that delivers multiple programming signals on a single RF channel. See, page 3, lines 6-7.

In contrast, the sections of Weinberger cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest allocating one of the RF channels to carry programming signals corresponding to more than one program channel, displaying the program channel corresponding to a program selection carried on the allocated one of the RF channels and displaying the program channel corresponding to another program selection carried on the allocated one of the RF channels in response to a change in the program selection using the passenger control unit. Rather, Wienberger teaches that a video reproducer (or video cassette recorder) 227 and a media

server 211 may be used to output a plurality of video and video transport streams, respectively, that correspond to a first and second plurality of prerecorded video channels. See, Weinberger, Figure 3, col. 9, lines 22-27. In order to preview the output of a particular video reproducer 227, a tuner must be tuned to the proper video (or RF) channel for the video reproducer 227. See, Weinberger, col. 64, lines 19-24. A field, VideoRF_Channel, in the cabin file server database 493 is used to store the video channel (or RF channel) information for each video reproducer 227. See, Wienberger, col. 64, lines 19-24. Wienberger, however, does not teach or suggest allocating one RF channel to carry programming signals corresponding to more than one program channel.

In addition, the sections of Wienberger cited by the Examiner do not teach or suggest displaying the program channel corresponding to a program selection on the RF channel or displaying the program channel corresponding to another program selection carried on the RF channel. Rather, the sections of Weinberger cited by the Examiner disclose using a passenger control unit to select channels, to control downloading of movies for viewing, to initiate service calls to flight attendants, etc. and providing an address for a seat controller card 269 as a node on a network. See, Weinberger, col. 1, lines 64-65, col. 2, lines 64-67, col. 6, lines 60-67 and col. 13, lines 19-40 and 50-65. There is, however, no disclosure of displaying program channels corresponding different program selections on a single RF channel. Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Weinberger.

Claims 2-7 and 10-11 depend from claim 1 and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1 and are therefore allowable over Wienberger for, among other reasons, the same reasons as given above with respect to claim 1.

Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 10-11 are believed to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and allowance of claims 1-7 and 10-11 is respectfully requested.

5. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinberger. Claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 1 and incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1 and are therefore, allowable over Wienberger for, among other reasons, the same reasons as given above with respect to claim 1.

Accordingly, claims 8 and 9 are believed to be allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allowance of claims 8 and 9 is respectfully requested.

6. Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 18-1722. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 18-1722. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 18-1722.

Respectfully submitted,

Date 16 Jan 2004 By Nathan O. Jensen

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